

# the chronicle

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## Phone lines down after lorry crash

Homes have been left without phone lines after a lorry crashed into a telegraph pole, causing it to fall. Cables to properties were damaged, following the smash along Maypole Hill in Cradley.

Around half a dozen homes are believed to have been affected and BT customers fear they could be without a connection for up to a week.

The tipper lorry mounted the pavement and collided with the telegraph pole at just before 8am yesterday. It caused it to snap and was only held in place through wires.

A car travelling in the other direction then caught one of the loose cables on the ground pulling the whole pole down.

Although it managed to avoid hitting any houses or vehicles nearby residents were wakened by a loud bang.

The road was closed for more than an hour while the pole which was half in the road and on the pavement was moved.

Resident Leslie Phillips said: "I heard a big crash and it sounded like something had come through the front of the houses."

### Frightening

The 48-year-old teacher added: "It was quite frightening as the telegraph pole wasn't very far from the houses."

"I have been told it will be a week before we get a new telegraph pole so I have got no telephone or internet. It is annoying as it is going to take this long as it means I can't work at home."

Emma Tennant, spokeswoman for BT, said investigations into what work needed to be done were going ahead and it was not known when work would be completed. An engineer went to the scene yesterday to make the area safe.

"We are still surveying the area," she said. "The pole and an overhead cable need to be replaced. We will do everything we can to replace it as soon as possible."

"We believed five or six customers could be affected but BT Open Reach hasn't yet had any faults reported to them yet. Anybody affected needs to report it to their service provider."

## 500 apply for jobs at Aldi

Around 500 people have applied to work at a new supermarket which is being opened in the Black Country.

Bosses at Aldi are opening a branch on the site of the former All Electric Garage in Earls Way, Halesowen, in November.

The store will create a dozen new jobs but supermarket bosses today said there had been a flood of interest from people wanting to work there.

Aldi spokeswoman Sophie Millward said: "We are planning to open our new Aldi store on November 24."

The development is currently being built and once completed it will be the sixth Aldi store in Dudley. A new £2.6million, 71-bed Travelodge is also currently being built over the road from the Aldi site.

There will be an adjoining KFC drive-through restaurant to the hotel.

The three affected homes have a total of 63 beds.

### Disgrace

Mr Griffiths said residents had been devastated by the news. "It is a disgrace that the only way that we found out it was shutting was in the Express & Star. We just feel in limbo," said Mr Griffiths formally of Bredon Avenue, in Lye.

"We just hope that somehow the council will think again."

Follow residents, including 80-year-old Nancy Homer, the care home's former matron, retired lorry driver James Birch, 86, and Pete Shingleton, also 86, who lived on Dudley's Priory estate, have also joined the campaign.

Grandmother-of-10 Mrs Homer said: "This place has been my life for many years.

"It is a wonderful place and the staff are absolutely lovely. It will be a shame if we all break up and are not together any more."

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## New home for replica Titanic anchor



The anchor on its way to Netherton

A 16-ton replica of the Titanic anchor has been moved back to the place where the original was manufactured ahead of a public celebration.

The 18ft long anchor will be officially unveiled at its new home in Netherton as part of Netherton Nautical Day which takes place on Saturday.

The structure was moved out of the Black Country Living Museum on August 11 and taken via a flat-bed truck on the two-mile journey to the town.

Halesowen Road and Northfield Road, near to Netherton Arts Centre, were closed between 6am and 2pm while the anchor was moved into place.

It has been fenced off with work due to take place on the structure in the week.

The original was manufactured in Netherton and is hailed as an important piece of the region's history. The replica anchor was built for a Channel 4 programme delving into the history of the construction of the passenger ship.

## PENSIONERS' ANGER OVER HOMES PLAN

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Elderly residents who could be forced to leave their council-run care home have told of their dismay at the sudden news.

They said they only found out that New Bradley Hall in Kingswinford was earmarked for closure in the local press. The home could close within three years, along with New Bridge House in Coseley and New Swinford Hall in Stourbridge.

A group of residents and their relatives, led by 78-year-old Harry Griffiths, are fighting the plans which they say will break up their "family".

Mr Griffiths, a retired long distance lorry driver, has only been at the care home, off Stream Road, for around nine months. He was one of the last residents to leave council-run care home Amblecote House after Dudley Council shut it. He was joined at New Bradley Hall by Granville Cotterill, 88, who also had to leave Amblecote House.

The closure plans were due to go before Dudley Council's cabinet for approval on Wednesday night.

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"It is a wonderful place and the staff are absolutely lovely. It will be a shame if we all break up and are not together any more."

The three affected homes have a total of 63 beds.

## Back to school after transplant



Windsor High School pupil Jasmine Page with staff who helped her when she collapsed, left to right Patrick Quigley, Sue Detheridge and Yvonne Talbot

It was all smiles for school staff celebrating heart transplant patient Jasmine Page's return to the classroom.

The 13-year-old, who was diagnosed with a heart condition at the age of three, collapsed at Windsor High School, in Halesowen, in January.

Staff with first aid training kept her alive for four minutes until an ambulance crew arrived to take over resuscitation attempts. She underwent a

## Campaign to create more parking bays

Traders were due to take their campaign for extra parking in a Black Country town centre before council chiefs this week.

More than 1,200 people have signed a petition demanding more spaces in Dudley amid claims trade is suffering.

The group will also call for a car park to be set up on the town's Stone Street Square, where plans for a continental-style piazza have stalled.

The council has already started work to introduce 55 new spaces in the town by getting rid of double yellow lines but businesses say more still needs to be done.

### Recent

Roger Scott, owner of Roger Scott Menswear in Stone Street, says his profits are now £1,000-a-week lower than they were five years ago, while Alan Caswell, owner of the Fountain Arcade Toy Shop in Stone Street, said his takings were down 20 per cent in recent years.

The number of parking spaces in Stone Street has been increased from 12 to 18.

The work is part of an ongoing scheme to create 55 parking spaces throughout the town at High Street, Priory Street, Wolverhampton Street, Union Street, The Inhedge, Cross Street and King Street.

## Jobs and homes scheme unveiled

Up to 1,300 new jobs, 200 homes and a supermarket could be created in the Black Country as part of a £120 million scheme unveiled this week.

Under the proposals a 66-acre site in Coseley would be redeveloped.

New business units would be built to house existing and new firms while a community hall and full-size football pitch would also be created on the site.

It also includes three industrial estates stretching between Birmingham New Road and Sedgley Road West.

A food store, retail warehouse and a specialist shop are also planned as part of the Coseley Eco Park project.

The plans have been drawn up by the site's owner, Skelton Group Investments.

Director Graham Willson said an outline planning application would be submitted to Dudley Council next month. Mr Willson said the existing firms would be given the option of staying on the site.

Between 400 and 500 new jobs would be created by the new food store and wholesale warehouse while around 300 posts would be made available during the construction phase.

## Street's new golden name is put forward

A street on a new housing development in Halesowen will be known as Golden Orchard. The residential development of 70 homes off Coombs Road is near the site of a former farm called Golden Orchard Farm.

The proposal for the naming of the street has to be formally agreed by Dudley Council.

## Plans for cutting speed in spotlight

Plans to reduce speed limits on two busy roads in Halesowen and Stourbridge will be scrutinised by a highways chief this month.

The speed restrictions are being considered for the A459 Dudley Road/Haden Hill Road, Halesowen, and on the A451 Norton Road, Norton, near Stourbridge.

Dudley Council wants to reduce the limits to improve safety.

Residents have been consulted about the plans but the authority's highways department says no-one has raised concerns.

Speeds will drop from 60mph to 40mph in Norton Road from its boundary with Worcestershire to an existing 40mph stretch up to the junction with Racecourse Lane.

Drivers will find the 40mph limit on the A459 cut to 30mph if the proposals are approved. Limits on the A459 within Sandwell are presently 30mph and Dudley Council says it wants to create uniformed speeds along the road.

The reduced limit would stretch from the traffic island at Mucklow Hill along the Dudley Road into Haden Hill Road before reaching the Sandwell boundary.

Dudley transport chief, Councillor Patrick Harley, will consider the plans on September 27.

It will cost Dudley Council around £5,000 to implement the speed reductions. Cash will be found from the minor capital works budget.

# MPs notch up £500,000 expenses bill in a year

MPs in the Black Country and Staffordshire have been paid more than half a million pounds in expenses since they were elected a year ago, new figures show.

The latest tranche of claims for second home, travel, office and staff costs for April and May this year were revealed on the website of new watchdog, the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

They showed MPs in the area were paid a total of £50,097.82 in expenses during the two months. Their received a total of £577,420.37 between May 2010 and May 2011.

Unpaid claims were also laid bare – but the data showed no local MPs were found to be in breach of the new rules with their claims rejected.

However, they were braced for extra scrutiny of their expenses by voters in the midst of major public spending cuts and job losses. Across the country there was fresh controversy as it emerged 69 claims were turned down, or only part reimbursed by officials, regarding the expenses of some 45 MPs.

In total, 27,000 claims were disclosed – and MPs paid £3.5 million during April and May this year. Tom Watson, MP for West Bromwich East, claimed for the services of a PR firm set-up by a former aide to ex-PM Gordon Brown.

The Labour MP paid Gordon & Badley Communications £1,304.16 – two payments of £652.08 in April and May for community consultations.

Mr Watson said: "I regularly consult my constituents on issues affecting them and their loved ones. This year I have consulted on a range of issues from metal theft to police support."

Paul Uppal, MP for Wolverhampton South West, who stays in a hotel while in London because he says it is cheaper than renting or buying a property and claiming mortgage interest, claimed £540 for accommodation.

The figures came out as a report revealed that nearly one in five MPs is still employing family members, at a cost to the taxpayer, despite widespread condemnation of the practice during the expenses scandal.

MPs are allowed to employ one family member – and those who had employed more than one before Ipsa took charge in 2009 can still do so.

### Nationally

- Nationally, expenses totalling £3.5 million were paid out to MPs during April and May. Ipsa said it had processed almost 27,000 claims in that period.

Some 69 claims from 45 MPs were turned down – though it remains open to members to submit further evidence to support the claims if they dispute the reason for their rejection.

The rejected claims included a request for £150 from Business Secretary Vince Cable to pay for a banner, which was turned down because it pre-dated the creation of the independent scrutiny scheme.

The figures came out as a report suggested nearly one in five MPs is still employing family members, despite widespread condemnation of the practice.

Research by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism for The Independent found that 136 MPs employed family members in their parliamentary office.

## Centre artwork will be restored

An historic work of art will be restored and returned to a Black Country shopping centre after a £50 million redevelopment of the site. A mosaic depicting Stourbridge's coat of arms dating from the 1920s, will be removed from its long-term home at Stourbridge's Crown Centre before work at the site begins.

Bosses at Tesco have revealed their plans for the artwork for the first time. Spokesman Jonathan Simpson said: "We plan to restore and re-site it within the new mall."

## Pete gets a big chance of fame



Singer-songwriter Pete Boddis at his First Floor Vintage music store

Veteran singer-songwriter Pete Boddis, aged 67, is having another stab at fame after playing gigs in the Black Country for more than 40 years.

He has made it to the regional final of the Open

Mic UK contest on October 29. If he gets through, the national final is at London's O2 Arena in January.

The winner gets a recording contract.

Mr Boddis, of Wollaston, runs the First Floor Vintage

record and guitar shop in Lower High Street, Stourbridge. Married with one son, he will prepare for his big night by playing with the Jazziatrics at the Har-West Festival in Stourbridge town centre tonight.

## Moves to protect wildlife

Installing special street lamps and creating grassland with wildflowers are among proposals to safeguard wildlife at a Black Country ancestral home.

A plan to build 14 houses on land at the 15th century Wordsley Manor, near Stourbridge, stalled seven months ago when councillors insisted rare slow worms and bat roosting sites were protected.

Developer Selbourne Homes has drawn up a new plan to tackle the issues in a bid to win approval for the planning application.

Managing director Gavin Warr says the firm hopes the proposals will satisfy planning officers.

Under the plan three conservation areas would be set aside for the slow worms.

A central metal gridded pathway would be created to give worms passage through to a watercourse.

Ten bat boxes would be fixed and inspected annually, and special illuminated bollards would create a bat-friendly environment.

A covenant would bind any future developers to protect wildlife.

## £1m sports hall to open

A £1 million sports hall at a Dudley school will be officially opened on September 16.

Ellowes Hall Sports College in Lower Gornal has been given a £725,000 grant from the Department for Children, Schools and Families for the complex. Dudley North MP Ian Austin will be among guests at the opening.

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# Toby reunited with his family

A family from Halesowen have spoken of their delight after being reunited with their pet dog which was stolen while they were on holiday.

Three-year-old Toby, a bichon frise, was snatched from owner Peter Mills' mother's garden in West Bromwich on August 21.

He was discovered tangled in brambles by a woman and her grandson near the Ridgacre pub in New Gas Street, West Bromwich, a week after he disappeared.

They spotted an article in the local press about the theft and called the family to say Toby was safe and well.

He has now been reunited with Mr Mills, his wife Debbie and their children Sian, 18, and Josh, 16, at their home in Manor Lane, Halesowen.

## Happy

Since returning he has been back playing with his best friend Pippa, the family's other white three-year-old frise.

Sian, who is about to start a child nursing course at Leicester's De Montfort University, said: "We didn't think we would ever see him again but we were so happy when he came back."

"It was great to see him back again.

"He is still quite afraid of men but he is getting better."

The family believe Toby may have been abandoned by the people who snatched him when they realised he was neutered and would not be able to breed.

Mrs Mills told how they had been through turmoil after a phone call from a woman in Rowley Regis who had found a bichon frise but it turned out it wasn't Toby. Then a



Sian Mills, 18, of Halesowen reunited with her dog, Toby

second call came. She said: "As soon as we opened the door we knew it was him and he ran up to us with his tail wagging."

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# Lottery grant saves counselling centre

A counselling and advice centre in Stourbridge, which was facing closure due to funding cuts, has been saved after receiving a £293,000 lottery grant.

The cash will help The What? Centre continue its work with young-sters over the next three years.

Manager Julie Duffy said it was the "start of a new era" for the site.

The centre provides advice on issues such as housing, employment, training and health for people aged between 13 and 25.

The service also has a contract with Dudley Primary Care Trust to provide counselling to young people.

Mrs Duffy said: "The Lottery bid was very hard work and took months of preparation but this has paid off."

"The funding is to cover some of the counselling, employment and training advice, to build on the young people's

forum and to start some new work with parents."

The centre was left under threat after a £47,000 grant from Dudley Council was stopped last year.

The authority gave the group a one-off payment of £31,000 to help it through the 2010/11 financial year.

## Volunteers

Since March it has also received £48,500 from the Government's Transition Fund, which has helped to keep the centre going by paying some of its running costs.

The centre was forced to shed four part-time staff to try and balance the books leaving two workers and 10 volunteers.

But Mrs Duffy said the future was now looking brighter and a re-launch event for the charity was in the pipeline.

## Market will boost church

A fundraising market day will be held in aid of Christ Church, Coseley on Saturday.

It will take place at the Mary Dermott Hall on Gough Road from 11.30am until 3pm.

There will be a number of stalls and a raffle. As part of the event a photo competition is also being held.

It is open to those who have not won a competition before and entries must be no bigger than A4 in size. The photos will be put on display at the Market Day event and will be judged on that day.

Entry forms are available from the church or the vicarage in Church Road, Coseley.

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## MP wants homes assurances

A Black Country MP is asking for assurance that residents and staff at a care home will not be affected when a new firm takes over.

Southern Cross has published details of the new operators of its six care homes in Dudley.

One of those homes, Ashbourne in Lightwood Road, is in Ian Austin's Dudley North constituency and is due to be taken over by Loyd's Nursing Home Group at the end of October.

Loyd's is currently in administration and Mr Austin says that before the homes are transferred, Dudley Council must assess the fitness of the new operators to run them properly.

Mr Austin said: "We now know who will be taking over the Southern Cross care homes in Dudley.

"It falls on the council to assess the fitness of the new operators to run the care homes properly. Given the upheaval residents had to go through

following the collapse of Southern Cross, I'm concerned they should have the security of knowing they are living in a well-run home, free from the threat of closure.

"The staff too deserve stability and their transfer on their existing terms and conditions should be handled properly and in full consultation with trade unions. We must ensure continuity of care for residents, and continuity of pay and conditions for staff."

## Apply for places via website

Parents can apply for school places for their children will not be affected when a new firm takes over at a charity event.

Families looking for places for children starting primary school or transferring to secondary school for next year can now visit [www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions)

The authority says paper applications are still available on request but claims the online system makes the process easier.

For families who do not have access to a computer, free drop-in sessions using public computers will be run at libraries across the borough during September and October.

Schools admissions staff will be on hand throughout the sessions to give help and advice.

## Crafts course

Courses in traditional crafts are on offer at Stourport's Bishops Wood Centre including woodwork, flower arranging, bushcraft, rustic furniture making and photography. The next course is the Digital Photography weekend on October 15 and 16. Visit [www.bishopswood-centre.org.uk](http://www.bishopswood-centre.org.uk)

## Gazza in hospice fundraiser



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# Cost to police over riots could hit £12m

## Traders look for support

West Midlands Police Authority has received 65 applications for financial support from businesses and people affected by the riots.

Traders in Wolverhampton, West Bromwich and Birmingham are able to access funds from the authority under the Riot Damages Act. The cost is expected to run into hundreds of thousands of pounds as businesses try to recoup losses.

Three of the worst-affected businesses in Wolverhampton have applied to the city council for rate relief.

Keren Jones, the authority's assistant director for promotions and partnerships, said officers given traders information on how the could access funding.

"To date, we have spoken directly to all businesses affected and provided additional information to 15 businesses to make claims under the Riot Damages Act that are processed by the police," she said.

Riots in the Black Country and Birmingham cost cash-strapped police up to £12 million, the region's top officer claims. West Midlands Chief Constable Chris Sims outlined the impact of the riots, which he said had been the biggest single investigation by the force since the IRA bombings in Birmingham in 1974.

It also emerged the average age of the rioters was 23, with a third of those arrested being under 17. Mr Sims told West Midlands Police Authority that £8m had to be paid to officers and staff who worked 12-hour shifts instead of eight as they tried to contain rioters on the streets and carried out round-the-clock investigations in the weeks following.

The force will also have to pay a further £600,000 to reimburse forces from North Yorkshire, Cleveland, Norfolk, Suffolk and Scotland who sent officers to help.

Looters flooded the streets and smashed shops in Birmingham on August 8 before the riots spread to West Bromwich and Wolverhampton the next day. Mr Sims said it would be "arrogant" to claim the force had nothing to learn from the riots. The estimated cost including damage to police vehicles and premises and the ongoing investigative work is expected to see the overall cost soar to between £10m and £12m.

Reporting to the West Midlands Police Authority, Mr Sims said: "I am convinced that this work and the early public dialogue organised by the police authority will strengthen West Midlands Police's ability to meet further challenges."

Officers had been authorised to use plastic bullets after they came under fire in Aston but had not needed to use them.

The report revealed:

- A total of 622 people had been arrested

- Their ages ranged from 12 to 59 and their average age was 23

- A third of people arrested were 17 or under

- So far 193 have been charged, 328 bailed and 69 face no further action

- Forensics officers have examined 150 scenes and have lifted 319 fingerprints along with 149 DNA samples

- 4,000 hours of CCTV footage have been received and 375 images made available to the investigating team with 265 circulated to the media

The policing operation generated only five complaints surrounding the overuse of force by police officers indicating "a maturity of approach by officers", Mr Sims said.

Wolverhampton recorded the second highest amount of offending after Birmingham. The majority of the 58 offences occurred within a 1km area of the ring road, from between 2pm and 8pm on August 9.

There were 22 offences in West Bromwich. Half the crimes were burglary or criminal damage to buildings.

## National finals calling



The Pargeters, sitting, Rich and Nick Jauncey, with, back, singer, James Rees and Pete Wainwright on bass the final member Greg Cartwright is in Poland

A band named after the Black Country street they live in have beaten off competition from around 150 groups to land a spot on the bill at a top London venue.

The Pargeters, who live and rehearse in Pargeter Street, Stourbridge, could land a £100,000 prize including recording and production deals when they play in the national final of the Surface Festival 2011 in London on October 1.

For more see [www.surfacefestival.com](http://www.surfacefestival.com) or [www.facebook.com/pargeters](http://www.facebook.com/pargeters)

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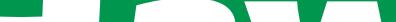
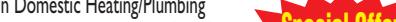
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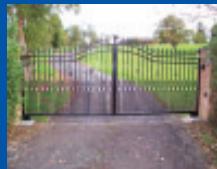
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# JB's nightclub goes for auction at Villa

[dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk)

The former JB's nightclub and a police station are among properties due to come under the hammer at a major auction at Villa Park later this month.

A string of former pubs and £350,000 of Sandwell Council property are also on the auction block.

The eight council lots are among 139 up for auction at the event being run by CP Bigwood at Aston Villa Football Club on September 22. The former JB's, Castle Hill, Dudley, is on the market for between £200,000 and £225,000.

Administrators gave up trying to sell the nightclub as a going concern last month and it is already being stripped of its memorabilia and music equipment.

Once the haunt of legends like Led Zeppelin and U2, it went into administration a year ago and closed in January with debts of £450,000. Also up for offers is the former police station in Birmingham Road, Wolverhampton, just outside the city centre.

### Custody

With a guide price of £375,000 it still includes the reception/custody area, interview rooms and custody cells. It has been out of use for nearly nine months, with officers moved to other nearby premises such as the new Bilton police station.

Among the other properties up for auction is a fire-damaged restaurant at 39/40 Union Street, Wednesbury, with a guide price of £70,000. A host of Black Country pubs are also up for auction. The Hill Tavern, Watson Green Road, Dudley, has a guide price in excess of £200,000; The Freebodies Tavern, St John Street, Dudley, has a guide price in excess of £180,000.

The Iron Master, Wesley Street, Bilston, has a guide price in excess of £150,000; while the Moon Under the Water, Huntington Terrace Road, Cannock, has a guide price of £78,000-£83,000.

Ron Darlington, joint head of auctions for CP Bigwood, said considerable interest was building in the sale. He added: "Our previous auction was packed and bidding was brisk. The success rate in achieving sales is good - 81 per cent."



Tom and Sally in the Brierley Hill garden where they found the grenade

A Brierley Hill family found themselves at the centre of a bomb alert when they uncovered a grenade while digging the garden.

More than 30 homes were evacuated in Addison Road as a bomb disposal unit arrived at the property. The drama unfolded while Sally Mallen, aged 17, tried to dig up a tree root at her sister Michelle Bingham's home.

She was tackling the job at the bottom of the back garden with her boyfriend Tom Millett-Kirkham, 18, when she uncovered the grenade, which had its pin removed. Miss Mallen, a student at Stourbridge College, showed the explosive to her boyfriend, who carried it to the house. She said: "I thought 'That looks like a bomb' but I never thought there was a danger it would explode. It wasn't until Michelle came outside and started getting worried that we realised we needed to call the police." Officers evacuated homes within a 100m radius and cordoned off the road off at about 2.20pm on September 7.

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# Volunteer officers who provide a special role

By day they have jobs in schools, hospitals and offices like thousands of others across the Midlands. But instead of relaxing in their spare time, these volunteers work as police officers.

Their role has become even greater in recent weeks as police resources were stretched during the riots across the area. Members of the Special Constabulary all give their services for free.

Most of them have full-time jobs, and have often already completed an eight-hour day before they turn their attentions to fighting crime.

West Midlands Police has 769 Specials, with 70 covering the Dudley borough from their base at Brierley Hill police station. And the Dudley team, led by James Horton, played a vital role in supporting the force during the riots, with 50 officers clocking up 722 hours in just seven days.

Mr Horton, aged 33, has worked his way up through the ranks for 12 years to become head of Dudley Special Constabulary. During the week of riots he was working 12-hour shifts to fill in for officers that were busy dealing with disorder in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and West Bromwich.



Simon Bousfield and James Cashmore, both qualified drivers for the specials, with one of the vans at Brierley Hill Police Station

He said it was "all hands on deck" with volunteers working around the clock to make sure enough officers were on duty in Dudley.

Mr Horton says: "I never cease to be amazed by the dedication and commitment of our special constables, who turn out for duty throughout the week, often after a hard day's work."

"I'm extremely proud to lead a dedicated team of professional

volunteers who consistently produce such excellent results."

There were 28 specials drafted in on the evening of August 8 when riots broke out in Birmingham and four specials worked through the night in Brierley Hill and Stourbridge.

Section officer Stuart Pearson, who has been a volunteer with the force for 12 years, worked from 4pm to 2am.

Occupations among specials

include a supermarket store manager, a senior nurse at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, a senior manager for NPower and a landscape gardener.

They are all required to work a minimum of four hours a week, but most do many more than that. Mr Horton admits that the demand on the volunteers is likely to increase as the force sheds 2,000 jobs.

He says people often ask why his officers are so willing to work for nothing when others get paid for the same job.

## Outstanding

"My response is always the same, we want to help the community. It is not always a case of someone having ambitions of a career in the police, many would not want to give up their other jobs and work here full-time."

Superintendent Stuart Johnson, head of policing for Dudley, says: "The Special Constabulary is an integral part of the police team at Dudley and I recognise that we have an outstanding group of officers."

"Without doubt, our communities benefit from having such exceptional volunteer police officers working in their neighbourhoods."

## Rebecca Pountney



When Rebecca Pountney told her friends and family she was going to become a volunteer police officer, they were understandably worried.

The 27-year-old works as a train delay attributor, investigating the reasons for train delays on Network Rail. And she was inspired to join the Special Constabulary by a desire to help the community.

Miss Pountney, who lives with her partner in Halesowen, has volunteered for the police for six years and works four to eight hours a week.

She says: "My friends were all quite worried at first but then they realised that the job I would be doing would be helping other people. It's a chance to see different walks of life and you never know what is going to happen each time you come on shift."

Miss Pountney has worked her way up to section officer and acts as a supervisor.

# Plan details for new bus station

Detailed plans are being drawn up for a £14,000 facelift of an ageing bus station as bosses prepare for work to begin later in the year.

Travel firm Centro is developing a scheme to improve Gornal Wood Bus Station following successful talks with Dudley Council officials a few months ago.

The company has revealed it was looking at possible changes to the layout when the four existing shelters are replaced. Officials said they wanted to study "all possible options" at the site before putting forward a final proposal for the project.

As part of the scheme all four of the shelters will be torn up and new modern ones installed in their place. Lighting at the station, in the heart of Gornal village, will also be upgraded to improve security.

Hundreds of commuters use the bus station every week and plans to update the station have been ongoing between Centro and Dudley Council for months.

Centro spokesman Steve Swinger said while no date had yet been set for the work to begin details of the scheme were now being put together.

# Fall in complaints against the council

Almost 90 complaints were made by the public against Dudley Council last year, new figures show.

A report from the Local Government Ombudsman shows there were 88 complaints in the 2010-11 finance year, compared with 91 the previous year.

It said the council had an average 21.1 day response time for dealing with requests and complaints, within the 28-day target set by the Ombudsman.

Councillor Tim Wright, deputy leader of the council, said: "We pride ourselves on doing an excellent job here at Dudley Council, but of course when things go wrong we do our best to settle the matter as quickly as possible."

If formal complaints arise, people should use the council's internal complaints procedure by filling in a form, called At Your Service, available from council offices or online at: [www.dudley.gov.uk/contact-us/customer-feedback](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/contact-us/customer-feedback).

# Christmas fair at hall

Christmas gifts and food will be on offer at an annual fair, Hagley Hall, near Stourbridge, holds the event between October 22 and 23.

Stalls will offer traditional gifts and food and drink producers also man stalls. The fair will be set inside the state rooms and in a heated and carpeted marquee.

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Select the 'set up' or 'installation' option. If you see picture icons, select the tool box, satellite dish or spanner. If you are prompted for a code, try 0000 or 1234.

Select the **full re-tune** option. This is sometimes called 'first time installation', 'factory reset', 'default settings' or 'shipping conditions'. Do not select 'channel update' or 'add channels'. Press 'OK' if your equipment asks if you want to delete all your channels. Don't worry, this is normal.

Channels will automatically be installed. This may take a few minutes and your equipment may shut down and restart.

These instructions are a guide only. Product specific instructions can be found at [digitaluk.co.uk/retuning](http://digitaluk.co.uk/retuning).

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# Fears over road safety

It is only a matter of time before somebody is killed after the latest crash at a Black Country accident blackspot, fear residents.

A man and a 10-year-old were injured after their car careered into a wall in Rowley Regis. People living on the 30mph Hawes Road are now demanding traffic calming measures. In the crash a car hit the kerb before spinning out of control. It crashed into the 5ft wall of the Rowley Regis Conservative Club.

Father-of-seven Peter Pemberton has lived on Hawes Lane for the past 10 years and the road terrifies her. She said: "You can hear them roaring down the road, and it's very scary."

Councillor Derek Rowley, cabinet member for neighbourhood services, said:

"We will send out an engineer to inspect the road."



The Weavers' Cottages in Kidderminster's Horsefair

## 200-year-old cottages to be restored

Historic cloth weavers' cottages which date back more than 200 years will be restored.

There had been fears the homes in Kidderminster's Horsefair would have to be demolished because of escalating repair costs but Wyre Forest Community Housing, which owns the properties, says it was working with the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust on a feasibility study.

The study is looking at how they could be refurbished and preserved for future generations.

Numbers 20, 21 and 22 Horsefair, known as the Weavers' Cottages, are Grade II-listed and have a weaving room on the upper floor.

The study will also look at different funding options that could be available to the building trust such as grants from organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund.

An early report on the houses showed the preferred redevelopment option would be to conserve as much of the main fabric of the houses as possible by keeping the same room use, and adding rear extensions to accommodate kitchens, bathrooms and toilets to meet current standards so they could be lived in.

## Changes to mail deliveries

New postal delivery routes are being rolled out across the West Midlands and Staffordshire as part of an overhaul of services in the region.

Changes to the mail delivery service are being introduced by Royal Mail over the next 18 months and have started in Dudley.

As well as alterations to routes, more postal workers are set to head out on their rounds in vans or with a trolley to deliver items rather than using traditional mail bags.

Bosses said the changes were being made because fewer letters are being posted, with more larger items such as parcels going through the mail system which can be difficult for postmen to carry in their bags.

It is not known when the new routes will be rolled out elsewhere in the region.

The changes in Dudley won't lead to a reduction in the number of workers and routes will be the same.

However, some householders who were at the start of a route may now find themselves at the end of one.

Although Royal Mail says many customers will continue to get their mail by lunchtime, the time will depend on where they are on the new delivery route.

The changes have come into force in Dudley and are expected to be fully implemented within a few weeks.

Letters are being sent to customers to tell them of the changes.

Business groups and councillors are also being informed.

## Arrests after body is discovered in flat

A man has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a body was found at a flat in Stourbridge.

The suspect, aged 37, was detained along with a 25-year-old man accused of burglary and a man, aged 45, on suspicion of supplying a controlled drug, shortly after the body was discovered in Caslon Crescent, Norton. Police launched their investigation after paramedics were called to reports of a man suffering a cardiac arrest at a ground-floor flat.

The man, aged 44, was declared dead at the scene and ambulance staff called West Midlands Police.

The death is being treated as "unexplained" while police wait for post mortem results.

All three men have been bailed pending further inquiries.

## Park walk to boost charity

A charity walk for the Alzheimer's Society Memory Walk is being held at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge on Saturday, September 17.

It is open to all ages and starts at noon.

Charity spokeswoman Emma Dowler said: "Memory Walk is a fantastic way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Families, friends, colleagues and individuals can walk together to raise money to help local people with dementia."

To register visit [memorywalk.org.uk/](http://memorywalk.org.uk/) Dudley

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# Youngsters chosen for TV drama show

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Two young actors have won parts in a new BBC drama starring Neil Morrissey and Gina McKee.

Gregory Piper, aged 13, and Jordyn-Eve Davis-Greene, 11, have roles in the five-part BBC2 show *Line of Duty*.

Written and produced by the creator of *Bodies* and *Cardiac Arrest*, Jed Mercurio, the series, based on a mistaken police shooting, will air early next year. Windsor High pupil Gregory, of Haden Close, Dudley, plays Ryan Pilkington, a troubled youngster who gets caught up in the action.

He will appear in every episode and is at the centre of a major storyline when he takes a character hostage.

His fellow drama school pupil Jordyn-Eve, of Whittington Road in Stourbridge, also has a part in the crime series.

She will play Natalie Tate, the daughter of a corrupt detective inspector played by Lennie James.

This was the pair's first audition and they are both looking forward to appearing on television for the first time.

## Scary

Gregory said: "It was quite scary having to audition in front of a room full of people. I've done school plays before but nothing like this."

Jordyn-Eve said: "When they called me and told me I had got the part it was one of the happiest moments of my life."

"I was very nervous but the camera crew were all really nice and made me feel more relaxed."

Gregory and Jordyn-Eve both attend the group Dramaworkshop, run by Esther Stanford, 33, and based at Chawn Hill Church in Stourbridge.

Miss Stanford said: "They have done so well in such a short space of time so I'm really delighted for them."

"It's a great endorsement of all the hard work they have been putting in."

Miss Stanford set up the drama group a year ago, having appeared in shows such as *EastEnders*, *The Bill* and *Heartbeat*.

Dramaworkshop is linked to First Act Workshops in Birmingham, which arranges its auditions.

Gregory and Jordyn-Eve, who starts Redhill School in Stourbridge in September, will be busy filming for the show in Coventry until November.

The show is expected to be screened on television early next year.



Gregory Piper and Jordyn-Eve Davis-Greene with teacher Esther Stanford

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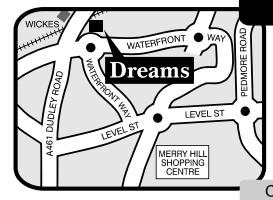


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## Thousands flock to classic vehicle show

Classic cars and vintage vehicles headed into a popular beauty spot for an annual show.

More than 3,000 people flocked to the grounds of Himley Hall to see over 750 vehicles, including buses and cars.

Organiser Geoff Price said: "Everyone seems to have been enjoying themselves and the weather held for periods, so I'm happy."

Among the exhibitors was Chris Unitt, aged 46, who was there with a 1924 Model T Ford which he has restored with modern parts, including an axle from an E-Type Jaguar.

The lorry driver from Darlaston bought the car after it had fallen into disrepair being used in "hot rod" competitions.

One of the most popular attractions was a replica Panzer 1490cc motorbike – as seen in the 1969 film Easy Rider – signed by the film's star Peter Fonda and owned by Graham Gamble, 53, of Seisdon.



Chris Unitt, left, with his 1924 Model T Ford and Martin Monaghan, showing off his 1953 Ford Prefect at the Himley Hall classic car show



Graham Gamble and his Easy Rider-style replica Panzer bike signed by Peter Fonda

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- Visit to coastal towns of Nairn and Elgin

**5 Days • 4 Nights:** 24 October from £199.95



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**Church celebrates 40 years**

A Brierley Hill church is celebrating 40 years since it first opened. Brierley Hill Methodist Church welcomed its first churchgoers in January 1971.

To mark its anniversary celebratory events have been held at the church in Bank Street throughout 2011.

Events have included a celebration dinner earlier this year as well as visits by previous ministers. On September 9 radio presenter, and regular visitor to the church, Nigel Ogden visited. Mr Ogden presents BBC Radio 2's longest running specialist music programme The Organist Entertains.

Bernard George, who has been attending the church since it was first founded, has helped to organise some of the celebrations.

The 78-year-old from Kingswinford said: "The church has played an active part in community life over the years, here has been a Methodist church on the site for more than 100 years but 40 years ago five or six churches from Brierley Hill came together and the premises was knocked down to make way for this one church.



Church members Bernard and Joyce George get ready for the organ recital

**Travellers sites plan**

Travellers will be allowed to set up home on up to 15 sites in Wyre Forest, under new plans.

Sites including Lea Castle in Cookley and Kidderminster's former Sion Hill Middle School have been unveiled as possible locations for permanent or temporary pitches.

Wyre Forest Council bosses hope the plans will stop travellers pitching up unannounced where they do not have permission. Other sites include Habberley Road and Stourport Road, behind Blackstone Picnic Park in Bewdley, and Sutton Park Rise, Kidderminster.

**Guided walk**

Free guided walks are being held with routes which take between two and three hours through Trimpley and Rock near Bewdley. They take place every Thursday in October at 10.30am, starting at the car park in Eyemore Wood, Trimpley and ending at The Cross Inn, at Rock. Visit [www.rockvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.rockvillagehall.co.uk) or call 01299 400304.

**How the chatty man Alan's got spex appeal**

"PEOPLE might have forgotten that I'm also a stand-up," says comedian Alan Carr, who returns to the live comedy circuit with 22 arena dates including Birmingham NIA on Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2.

The host of hugely popular Channel 4 chat show, Alan Carr: Chatty Man, and Saturday night Radio 2 show Going Out with Alan Carr, is relishing his return to stand-up comedy.

"My last show, Tooth Fairy, was four years ago now. If I were to leave a stand-up tour any longer, it would start to look like a comeback!"

"I'm having such a great time at the moment, I hope my TV career lasts. But when it inevitably comes to an end, I'll always have stand-up. It's my safety blanket," says the 35-year-old entertainer who was raised in Northampton.

"I love doing live comedy. It's also nice to know that I won't have to earn money by going into the jungle and eating crocodiles' testicles!"

That's not going to happen anytime soon as Carr's infectious brand of good-natured bawdy humour has won him a mantelpiece-endangering clutch of awards.

He has picked up the Best Entertainment Show for Alan Carr: Chatty Man at the 2010 TV Choice Awards, TRIC TV Personality of the Year and RTS Performance of the Year in 2009, two British Comedy Awards and the Variety Club Best TV Presenter Award in 2008. His DVD Alan Carr: Tooth Fairy was a number one best seller.

"I have the best fans in the world!" he beams. "People are ever so nice. I get kids coming up wanting to hug me. At live shows, you get such a warm welcome. I receive this tremendous sense of affection from the audience."

"There is no editing and you're not hanging around for the ratings the next day. I really like the spontaneity of it all. You haven't got to cut bits out to make sure it fits the 12 minutes before the ads. That's very liberating."

"Hopefully people are laughing throughout it and cheering at the end."

The Dorset-born comedian currently co-hosts with Melanie Sykes his own



"I think people enjoy the communal experience of watching comedy together. It's such a buzz. Oh, I adore stand-up! Within reason, you can do whatever you want,"

says the comic, whose autobiography, Look Who It Is! My Story, has become a best-seller, selling more than 350,000 copies to date.

**Liberating**

"There is no editing and you're not hanging around for the ratings the next day. I really like the spontaneity of it all. You haven't got to cut bits out to make sure it fits the 12 minutes before the ads. That's very liberating."

"Hopefully people are

bursting into tears every few minutes! Rest assured, it's an upbeat show."

Alan also shies away from any overtly political material. "I've never been political," promises the comic, who with Justin Lee Collins fronted several series of the

widely-loved Channel 4 show, The Friday/Sunday Night Project, between 2006 and 2009.

"I recently tried to do a bit about the Middle East but people didn't like it."

"Ultimately, I'm just doing some jokes."

"Comedy has become so big now that journalists ask for my opinion on the economy. I tell them, 'I'm just a stand-up comedian. I've no bloody idea!'"

"I get tweeted by people saying, 'Please, please, do a routine about Libya,' but they're asking the wrong person. People overrate comedians. Much as I'd like to sort it out for them, I'm afraid I can't."

"I half-expect people to hand me Gaddafi's phone number and say, 'Have a word, Alan!'"

**US deal saves Brintons' jobs**

More than 1,600 jobs at a historic Midland carpet firm have been saved after it was bought in a deal worth £40 million following weeks of talks.

Brintons in Kidderminster would have gone out of business if a new investor was not found. The crisis came as accountants PricewaterhouseCoopers were brought in to try and find £20m needed by the company. Bosses have now announced Brintons has been bought by American firm The Carlyle Group after talks began three weeks ago.

The buyers will take on the £20m debts and invest a further £20m.

Brintons managing director Don

Coates said: "It was vital to find a buyer to avoid the total collapse of the company, which would have left 1,670 staff redundant. When we evaluated the £30 plus offers for the company this was by far the best and enables the company to move forward with confidence."

"The obligation of the management team was to find a solution that enabled Brintons to have a viable future and this will ensure the company is able to return to profitability and continue to be a global brand."

The deal signals the end of a 228-year line of family members who

inherited the business. It employs about 700 people in Kidderminster and Shropshire, with the rest spread across worldwide branches.

The company was established by William Brinton in 1783 and makes carpets for domestic and commercial markets. Mark Garnier MP for Wyre Forest, welcomed the news saying: "It is very important for the town to keep this historic firm."

The company has a factory in Stourport Road, Kidderminster and offices in Exchange Street.

Brintons is famous for prestigious contracts which include carpeting the new Wembley Stadium.

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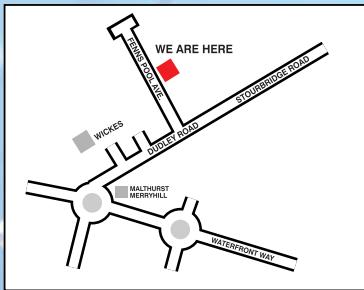


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**GENUINE** male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. Wolverhampton. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368871

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**BRIAN** Walsall male, 60, single, N/S, smart, casual, seeks West Midlands lady for regular meetings. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374487

**MATURE** male, seeks female for kisses, cuddles and naughty indoor fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361589

**WENDY** dark hair/eyes, medium build, seeks male for friendship and see what happens. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375583

**POLLY** dark hair, 50, attractive, outgoing, seeks special outgoing, for days out etc. Telford. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 371127

**LOVING** caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH. 58-62. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364651

**FUN** female, uniformed, civil servant, attractive, average build, GSOH, seeks tall, professional, N/S male with GSOH for relationship. Willenhall. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367485

**5FT1** 1ins female, GSOH, seeks 5ft 5ins plus, well built male with GSOH for fun, fun, fun. W Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365743

**NICE** guy late 30's, genuine, open minded, likes wine/dinner, seeks kind-hearted lady for fun, friendship and companionship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341135

**HANDSOME** attractive, fit, professional trucker, 38, WLTM attractive, honest, caring female, 31-45, for LTR. Colour unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 219790

**55YR** old male, kind, generous, loving, seeks lady for relationship. Staffs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368445

**STEVE** 54, tall, attractive, seeks older female, 60-75 for close fun. West Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374339

**TONY** 47, loving, caring, honest, faithful, seeks local lady, 40-55. Smethwick area. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373835

**MARK** 44, hurt in past, caring, honest, faithful, looking for love with lady to share heart with and spoil. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373393

**IAN** 45, genuine, good condition, outgoing, likes travel, seeks a lady who wants to meet a nice guy. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373729

**ROB** 58, N/S, young looking, likes similar female for everlasting, tender, loving soul mate. Walsall. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373507

**MALE** 58, 5ft 8ins, medium build, short hair, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 to share happiness and life with. Tipton. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370649

**SINGLE** 47yr old male, seeks nice, kind, gentle, loving female. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365019

**MARK** 49, affectionate, easy-going, caring, fun loving, seeking similar female. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373223

**JOHN** 6ft 2ins, fit, likes gym, holidays, socialising, dogs, seeks nice, fit female for relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372563

**MALE** 57, no ties, good looking, N/S, seeks mature female to end loneliness and become soul mates forever. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372737

**PETER** Shropshire male, 33, 5ft 7ins, medium-large build, 3 children, likes football, pub quizzes, kind, caring, seeks bubbly female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375281

**FIT** fun guy 45, Hereford area, good job, loves walks, trips out, seeks female soul mate. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 371031

**GENUINE** male, 46, honest, caring, slim-medium build, many interests, seeks female for relationship. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 311892

**MALE** 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 311892

**MALE** 53, seeks female 35-45 for friendship, maybe relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375097

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# Trot along to enjoy horse show extras

THIS year's Horse of the Year Show features various new additions and promises to be another exceptional event not to be missed.

New this year is the 2011 Express Eventing Final! This promises to be an exciting new addition to HOYS on October 4, where visitors can witness the compact version of eventing under one roof.

Also new for this year, the Think Like a Pony Interactive Feature Area where the team will be on hand to provide demonstrations and answer your questions.

In addition, HOYS will also play host to the Household Cavalry Musical Ride. A spectacular military tradition which leaves a lump in your throat and a wave of Rule Britannia! washing over you – it is a true highlight to the show.

The Chronicle series has teamed up with the show organisers to offer nine readers the chance to win a pair of tickets so they can experience the 'world's most famous horse show' first hand.

This year's show will take place from Tuesday, October 4 to Sunday, October 9, at Birmingham's NEC and will host the finals of the most highly-regarded showing and show jumping championships, alongside an exciting line-up of equestrian entertainment.

The Osborne Refrigerators Double Harness Scurry Racing and the exhilarating Equimax Pony Club Mounted Games also return to the



show alongside the HOYS Dressage Special. With two arenas, 1,500 horses, 1,400 competitors and a huge retail village including 250 stands, the NEC is transformed into an equestrian extravaganza with something to excite every visitor.

To find out more about Horse of the Year and the 2011 line up, visit [www.thehoy.co.uk](http://www.thehoy.co.uk) and [www.hoyarena.co.uk](http://www.hoyarena.co.uk). Tickets for Horse of the Year are on sale now, priced between £27-£59.50 with shopping-only tickets priced at £9.50. To buy, visit [www.theticketfactory.com](http://www.theticketfactory.com) or call 0844 338 8000.

## HOW TO ENTER

To stand a chance of winning simply answer the following question:  
*What are the two new attractions?*

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number (only one entry per household) to Horse of the Year Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, September 22. Usual rules apply.

Editor's decision is final.



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Miss Challoner of Wolverhampton

# Here come the girls!



'Gurl' just wants to have fun – Californian pop star Katy Perry brings her sunshine sound to perk up an English autumn at Birmingham NIA on October 15

THREE of the pop world's biggest female stars will be coming to the West Midlands.

First up, fresh from her star turn at the summer's V Festival, is Barbados-born R&B diva Rihanna, who will not be needing her Umbrella when she plays Birmingham LG Arena on Saturday, October 15. And the singer, who also had massive hits with Only Girl (In The World) and Disturbia, will be returning again and again to the city, with another concert at the LG on November 18 and then at the National Indoor Arena (NIA) on November 29. Special guest on her Loud Tour will be Ibiza DJ and dance hit-maker Calvin Harris.

That California 'Gurl' Katy Perry will ensure a Firework show to remember at Birmingham NIA on Wednesday, October 26, as part of the second leg of her sold out California Dreams Tour. Expect lots of pink cotton candy. Her support will be New York-based Danish singer-songwriter Oh Land.

## Glee

Perhaps the biggest of the three concerts, if only because at one time it seemed so unlikely, is the return to the live arena of pop superstar Britney Spears.

Expect all 21 of her hits and a couple of surprises as the blonde bombshell gets back In The Zone at the LG Arena on Sunday, October 30, in one of only three UK shows as part of her world tour to mark the release of seventh album Femme Fatale. It's her first since 2008's platinum set The Circus.

One of a handful of artists who inspired her own Glee episode, Britney promises a lavish extravaganza for the fans and, as an extra treat the comeback queen will be bringing along heart-throb Joe Jonas as her support act.

For further information see the [www.necgroup.co.uk/whatson](http://www.necgroup.co.uk/whatson) website.



Britney's back and playing the LG on October 30. Below, Rihanna visits Birmingham three times in October and November



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# Return of the Mac

ECHO and the Bunnymen, one of the British rock scene's most influential bands, have a prestigious gig at Birmingham's Symphony Hall performing their classic Ocean Rain album in its entirety.

Fronted by Ian McCulloch and formed in Liverpool in 1978, the group provided a cool alternative to the punk scene with their psychedelic rock inspired by The Doors, The Velvet Underground and David Bowie.

## Hits

They had several hits during the 1980s, including The Cutter and Lips Like Sugar, and inspired several other groups, including Coldplay.

The band's 1984 album Ocean Rain is considered by many fans and critics to be their masterpiece, including the songs Silver, Seven Seas and The Killing Moon. The Bunnymen will be joined by a string section to perform it at Birmingham on Sunday, September 25.

For more information see the website [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)



Ian McCulloch, frontman of Liverpool's Echo and the Bunnymen

## What's on at the theatres

MUSICAL All The Fun Of The Fair, featuring the songs of David Essex and the man himself, is at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from tomorrow (Friday) and continues over the weekend. So get ready to Rock On.

Rhinestone Mondays, the new line-dancing play with country music, reunites former members of pop group Steps, Faye Tozer and Ian H Watkins at Wolverhampton Grand nightly to Saturday.

The show also co-stars ex-EastEnders and TV karaoke star Shaun Williamson and former New Seeker Lyn Paul, who last appeared at the Grand starring in Blood Brothers.

Next up at the Grand is Buddy Vs The Killer, from Thursday to Saturday (Sep 22-24), which stars Billy Geraghty as both Texan pop

star Buddy Holly and wildman of rock 'n' roll Jerry Lee Lewis.

Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's blockbuster musical Evita continues at Birmingham Hippodrome to September 24. It will be followed by Birmingham Royal Ballet's sumptuous staging of Beauty and the Beast from September 28 to October 2.

Birmingham Rep on the road present both Oscar Wilde's The Importance Of Being Earnest and Tom Stoppard's homage to Wilde, Travesties, at The Old Rep in the city to September 22.

The Fitzrovia Radio Hour, a humorous tribute to the BBC radio dramas of the 1940s, should be absolutely spiffing at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Tuesday night.







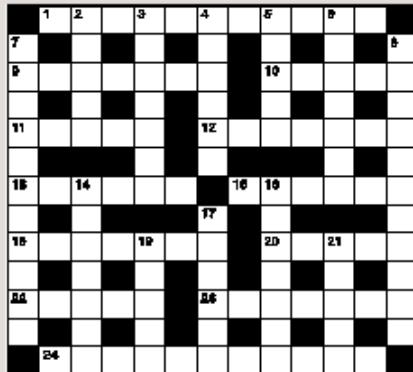


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### Crossword



Across  
1 Happening to be photographing the site (6,5)  
8 & 10 It What faces the houses of the French capital? (7,2,5)  
10 A note needs transposing by the right waylist (5)  
11 He's a cleric as a rule (5)  
12 This is assumed to make a sound receiver look more attractive (3-4)  
13 What the cat did, having run round the track? (5)  
15 Having been tapped, it's tapped and then tipped! (5)  
18 Take pains to show calamity (7)  
20 They're instrumental as water-carriers (5)  
22 Told about one showing generosity (5)  
23 Amongst to break a kind of knot (7)  
24 Doing to take a risk with certain people (11)

Down  
2 What increases your bank balance once more (5)  
3 Deeply emotional in past, present or future (7)  
4 Stone coming from the north in great variety (6)  
5 More recent piece of rare talent brought up (6)  
6 To do this, one may need to give a man time (7)  
7 So due parts will reveal those who take their due risks (11)  
8 Emulating the pilgrim? (11)  
14 The result of taking a one-sided picture (7)  
16 See 9 Across  
17 Firm amalgamation (6)  
18 Function to make progress in the part (5)  
21 Being precise about a Trojan king (5)

Lost Words Solutions:  
Across 18-Adventures 5-Double; 8-Strong; 10-Doubtless; 11-Wake; 12-Starting; 13-Change-of-heart; 15-Distrust; 16-Rel; 20-Confidence; 21-Hope; 22-Loss; 23-Deserted; 24-2-Orchid; 25-Tightened; 26-Confidence; 27-Moving; 28-Desert; 29-Desert; 13-Relief; 14-Rescue; 15-Desire; 18-Endure; 19-Relieve.

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### Sudoku

2	3	4	5
	6		2
1	4	2	9
	2		4
		5	1
6	1	3	8
9		6	3
	4		1
	9	2	4

Lost Words Solutions

Fit in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### Word Square

Using the central letter and at least three others, how many words can you find? Plurals, proper nouns and hyphenated words are not allowed, and there is at least one 9-letter word.

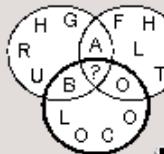
10 words = 0% 20 words = Great  
15 words = Good 25+ words = Excellent

I	H	S
R	Y	C
E	T	M

Lost Words Solutions  
9-letter word - Great

### Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



Lost Words Solutions

The letter represented by the question mark is G. Other questions include H, A, L, U, B, O, T, I, O, C.

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Tom Watkins, a former policeman who founded Animal Search UK



Tom Watkins, a former policeman who founded Animal Search UK

## Pet detectives see dognappings soar

Dognappings have more than doubled in the last 12 months, with opportunist thieves even targeting people selling litters over the internet who give their name and address, says a former Stourbridge policeman.

Tom Watkins, who runs charity Animal Search UK, says daily reports of dog thefts, with animals presumed stolen, have jumped from around 30 a day to between 60-100 every day in the last year across the country.

Mr Watkins, who quit his job as PC in Stourbridge and Halesowen to start his pet detective business, says dog owners need to be on their guard.

Jane Hayes, founder of Doglost, meanwhile says the Black Country and Birmingham has seen massive increases. She says Doglost now receives up to 200 calls a week about stolen dogs compared to 80 a week years ago. Mrs Hayes adds: "There has definitely been an increase in dog thefts around Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Dudley."

"We've even seen thieves taking whole litters from people advertising their sale on the internet and giving their name."

The revelation comes after the owners of a puppy stolen by two men on a motorbike were reunited with their beloved pet - after he was sold on to a couple in Wolverhampton.

Pauline and Ian Parsons, from Brierley Hill, welcomed 16-week-old Cavalier King Charles spaniel Alfie back home after he was snatched by the opportunist thieves from Kelvin Way Trading Estate where Mr and Mrs Parsons work, in West Bromwich.

### Newspaper

A couple from Coseley got in touch with Mr and Mrs Parsons after spotting Alfie in the newspaper. They said they had bought the dog from a man in Wolverhampton for £150.

Barbara Mills, a part-time legal secretary from West Bromwich, suspects she may also have been a dognapping victim.

Toby, a four-year-old white Bichon Frise she was looking after while her son Peter was on holiday, went missing from her back garden. Thankfully, Pippa, a white three-year-old Bichon Frise, was left behind.

Mrs Mills, a 72-year-old widow, says: "I was having coffee with a friend and they'd only been out a short while and I told the dogs to come in from the garden and only Pippa came in."

"There's no way he could have got out of the garden on his own, unless someone opened the gate and took him. I told my son Peter and he was very upset. I just hope he and my daughter-in-law are ok when they come back from holiday."

Mr Watkins says he currently has around 35 missing dogs from the Black Country on his radar, some of which are presumed stolen. The missing pets include one-year-old George, a black/tan/white Beagle, who has been missing from his Cradley Heath home since April 30. Lilly, a five-year-old Boxer from Streetly, near Walsall, has also been missing since May 5.

Two-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier Buster has also been missing from his home in Laburnum Road,



Barbara Mills with Pippa, a white Bichon Frise who was left behind by opportunist thieves who made off with four-year-old Toby, the same breed

Tipton, since April 10. Mr Watkins adds: "Thieves know if they see a dog left outside a shop the owners will generally pay a reward, and if it's a pedigree they can sell it in a pub somewhere."

"Thieves won't hesitate to jump into a garden and grab a dog or break a window if they see a nice dog in a car."

### Disappeared

Chris Williams, of Bourne Vale in Aldridge, said his Boxer Lilly disappeared at Woodlands Adventure where he is manager.

Mr Williams, who also has a four-year-old Springer Spaniel, Ellie and a two-year-old French Bulldog, Belle, says: "It is shocking dognapping is on the increase. I was devastated when Lilly went missing. Dogs are expensive to keep and to buy and at the end of the day your dog is your friend. I had had

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A very desirable and modern detached home, close to local amenities, and transport links, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, En-Suite to Master Bedroom, House Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway Parking for 4 Cars, Unfurnished

**£725 PCM****ROWLEY REGIS, DOVEY GROVE**

A modern unfurnished three storey townhouse, in a compact development, comprising of: Fitted Dining Kitchen, Two Reception Rooms, Lounge, Downstairs Shower Room, Four Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, House Bathroom, Garage and Driveway, Gardens

**£725 PCM****HALESOWEN, COMPTON ROAD**

Situated just off Kent Road is this unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Double Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Downstairs WC, Bathroom with Shower, En-Suite, Garage and Driveway Parking, Front and Rear Gardens

**£675 PCM****OLDBURY, SUFFOLK ROAD**

A part furnished semi detached property in popular residential area, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Fitted Galley Kitchen, Lounge and Separate Dining Room, Conservatory, Downstairs WC, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking and Garage

**£650 PCM****HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE**

Located in Hayley Green, is this unfurnished apartment, briefly comprising of: Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Bedroom and Parking Space. Viewing Highly Recommended.

**£650 PCM****HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE**

A brand new unfurnished first floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Bathrooms and Parking Space. Viewing Highly Recommended.

**£625 PCM****HALESOWEN, WROXLEY HOUSE**

Luxury Living in Hayley Green. A superb, first floor apartment, comprising of: Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen and Diner with French Doors to Balcony, Two Double Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Further Well Appointed Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and Allocated Parking.

**£625 PCM****HALESOWEN, WILTSHIRE DRIVE**

Located on the Homer Hill Estate, is this well present semi detached home, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms with Fitted Wardrobes, Spacious Lounge, Dining Room, Family Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking, Unfurnished

**£575 PCM****HALESOWEN, HIGHLAND HOUSE**

Located just off Cox Sheds Lane, is the very large, fully refurbished first floor flat, comprising of: Two Large Bedrooms, New Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Allocated Parking, Garage, Communal Gardens

**£525 PCM****HALESOWEN, BLOOMFIELD STREET NORTH**

An extremely well presented end terrace home being situated within easy access to Halesowen town, comprising of: Lounge with Feature Fireplace, Kitchen/Diner, Large Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Partial Double Glazing, On Road Parking, Internal Inspection is Highly Recommended. Unfurnished

**£525 PCM****ROWLEY REGIS, HABBERLEY ROAD**

This lovely unfurnished mid terraced home is located close to local shops, and minutes away from J2 M5, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden and Off Road Parking

**£525 PCM****HALESOWEN, CHURCHILL ROAD**

An opportunity to rent this unfurnished ground floor apartment, in a Cul-De-Sac Location, on the Huntsdown Estate, comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Shower Room, Garage En Bloc, Allocated Parking, Own Garden

**£495 PCM****CRADLEY HEATH, SUTHERLAND ROAD**

An unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Two Bedrooms, House Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

**£495 PCM****HALESOWEN, HAMMERSLEY CLOSE**

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, is this unfurnished end terraced house, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, Rear Garden

**£495 PCM****CRADLEY HEATH, VICTORIA ROAD**

An Unfurnished semi detached house briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Kitchen, Living Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking

**£475 PCM****HALESOWEN, CLEINT HOUSE**

This spacious top floor flat, with superb views, and in a popular location, briefly comprises of: Warm Air Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Garage, Unfurnished

**£475 PCM****ROWLEY REGIS, BIRMINGHAM ROAD**

A deceptively spacious first floor flat in a quiet location, walking within minutes of Blackheath Town Centre and Minutes away driving to J2 M5, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, Unfurnished

**£450 PCM****HALESOWEN, STOURBRIDGE ROAD**

A 2 bed unfurnished flat above a shop and within walking distance of town centre comprising of living room, dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, shower room, gas central heating, double glazing, parking space and rear garden.

**£395 PCM****DUDLEY, BEAN ROAD**

A refurbished ground floor flat within easy reach of the town centre, briefly comprising of: Reception Hall with Minton Floor, Lounge, Shower Room, Double Glazing, and Communal Parking, Unfurnished

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# Final three homes at Waters Edge complex

LEADING housebuilder Barratt West Midlands now has just three remaining waterside apartments at the Severn View apartment complex at Waters Edge on Mart Lane, Stourport.

The development has experienced high demand for its apartments thanks to its beautiful waterside location at Stourport's canal basin and its wide appeal to investors, first time buyers and anyone looking to move to a smaller scenic property now that their children have moved home.

"Our apartments in Severn View have been exceptionally popular" comments Stephen Cleveley, Senior Sales Manager for Barratt West Midlands. "And it's easy to see why. Our apartments enjoy the beautiful scenery of the canal basin and Stourport has become one of Worcestershire's premier locations thanks to its excellent facilities and attractions."

**Spacious**

"Residents in Severn View are just a short walk along the canal from the centre of Stourport with everything it has to offer, so our final three properties represent an excellent chance for buyers to secure a home at this popular development."

The final selection of apartments in Severn View includes the Mease-style two bedroom apartment, which is available for just £139,950, and features two spacious double bedrooms including a master bedroom with an ensuite bathroom, as well as an airy open plan living and dining room, modern kitchen and separate bathroom.

"We're really looking forward to welcoming visitors to see the final homes in Severn View" continued Stephen. "We are anticipating especially high demand for these final homes, so I



There has been high demand for the apartments in picturesque Stourport

would advise anyone interested to waste no time in contacting our friendly and helpful sales advisers, who will be on hand to answer any questions you have about moving to Waters Edge."

The final selection of apartments in Severn View includes the Mease-style two bedroom apartment, which is available for just £139,950, and features two spacious double bedrooms including a master bedroom with an ensuite bathroom, as well as an airy open plan living and dining room, modern kitchen and separate bathroom.

For more information, contact the sales office on 01299 828 130 open daily from 10am to 5pm.

Alternatively, call the sales hotline on 0844 811 9933 open seven days a week from 8am to 9pm or log on to [www.barrathomes.co.uk/waters-edge](http://www.barrathomes.co.uk/waters-edge)

Barratt West Midlands has been confirmed as meriting the maximum five star official rating from the Home Builders Federation (HBF) for the second year in a row.

The news was announced after more than 20,000 new home buyers across the country took part in this year's HBF customer satisfaction survey.

For added peace of mind, buyers can also benefit from Barratt's new five year guarantee on fixtures and fittings in their new home at the time of purchase.

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# Cap your speed near schools, says Peugeot

PEUGEOT is looking to cap speed now that schools are back after the long summer break.

The company is reminding motorists that, by using a speed-limiter they can drive safely, enjoy better fuel economy and protect their licence.

At this time of year drivers should be extra vigilant, especially around schools at peak hours.

Peugeot is calling on its customers, or drivers of any vehicle equipped with speed limiters, to set them to 20mph when driving near schools or entering residential areas. Speed limiters can be fitted to most cars.

The system, equipped as standard to most Peugeot

models, electronically prevents drivers from exceeding the speeds they set on the device.

Morgan Lecouper, director of marketing for Peugeot UK, said: "Excessive speed is widely regarded as the number one contributor of road accidents, and keeping a speed below 20mph makes total sense when driving in residential areas or near schools.

"However, maintaining 20 mph or lower in a modern car is tiring in itself, but in truth it needn't have to be due to speed limiters fitted to most new models.

"Once a desired speed is set, our system prevents the driver from exceeding that velocity."



Peugeot has urged motorists to be safety conscious as the bell rings for the new school term

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SX4 model shown is the 1.6 X-EC M/T from £12888 on the road (metallic paint is included). SX4 range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 32.5 (6.7) to 42.8 (6.6), extra urban from 50.4 (5.6) to 60.1 (4.7), combined from 42.2 (6.7) to 53.3 (5.3). Official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 155g/km to 139g/km.

\* Finance subject to status. Written quotations available on request. Over 18s only. A guarantee may be required. Prices and offers correct at time of going to press. Image is for illustration purpose only. Offer ends 30th September 2011. 50% deposit required



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The new Perodua Myvi comes with a £1,000 incentive offer and a free hands-free Bluetooth kit

## Talk while you drive with Bluetooth offer

PERODUA customers who buy a new Myvi during September will benefit from a free hands-free Bluetooth kit thanks to a new offer from the Malaysian car company.

Myvi customers will receive a Nexus Drive Sleek Pro hands-free Bluetooth kit which can be easily and discreetly secured to the driver's sun visor.

The slimline Bluetooth kit will give customers the benefit of hands-free calling allowing them to safely make calls in their new Myvi.

To receive the free hands-free Bluetooth kit, customers need to complete a voucher which can be obtained from Perodua UK by email [perodua@peroduauk.com](mailto:perodua@peroduauk.com), by phone on 01491 415230 or by visiting Perodua UK's website [www.peroduauk.com](http://www.peroduauk.com).

The voucher must be presented to the Perodua dealer at the time of purchasing a new Myvi – it's as simple as that.

This offer is available when purchasing any new Myvi,

including Perodua's added value Myvis which continue to benefit from no VAT increase until September 30.

The Myvi represents fantastic value for money with features such as air conditioning, four electric windows, electric door mirrors, power steering and an integrated radio/CD player all as standard.

With Perodua's current £1,000 incentive offer, the stylish Myvi super-mini is available from as little as £6,999.

### Incentive

Perodua are also giving all Myvi customers remote central locking free of charge until September 30. This representing a saving of over £160.

With a number of fantastic offers currently available from Perodua, customers are advised to contact their local Perodua dealer as soon as possible.

Customers can find their nearest dealer by visiting [www.peroduauk.com](http://www.peroduauk.com)



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Land Rover won more than half of the vote in a national poll

## Land Rover now the UK's favourite four-wheel drive

WHO MAKES the best 4x4s? That'll be Land Rover, which blitzed its rivals in a poll of 40,000 people to find the UK's favourite 4x4 maker.

Not for the first time, Land Rover has blown its off-roader rivals into the weeds. The famous British marque claimed an astonishing 54 per cent of the vote in a MSN Cars poll.

Just under 40,000 people provided their answer to the question: "Which firm makes the best '4x4' type cars?" when it was posed on the MSN Cars website last month.

Respondents were invited to choose their favourite from a list of 12 leading 4x4 manufacturers which included Jeep, Mitsubishi and Subaru as well as premium marques such as BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Porsche.

Second-placed Toyota polled nine per cent of the vote, so Land Rover's 54 per cent was the definition of an emphatic victory. Audi arrived in third place with eight per cent.

The MSN Cars poll clearly shows the UK public hold a special place in their hearts for Land Rover and its products. The first vehicle to carry the famous name appeared in 1948 and, although the company is now owned by TATA Motors, its headquarters are still based in Gaydon, Warwickshire.

The current Land Rover range includes household names such as the Freelander, Discovery and Defender models, along with the premium Range Rover and Range Rover Sport line-ups.

"We are thrilled that MSN users have voted Land Rover their favourite 4x4 brand," said Colin Green, managing director of Land Rover UK.

"We know that Land Rover has some of the best brand loyalty figures in the industry and this poll is testament to that.

### Authentic

"Taking over half the votes is a great achievement and goes to prove that Land Rover really does make the world's most authentic 4x4s. Thank you to everyone who voted for us!"

"As one of Britain's most cherished car companies, it's no surprise to see Land Rover top our poll as the maker of the best 4x4 vehicles," said Tom Evans, editor of MSN Cars.

"Its profile is about to get much higher with the arrival on our roads of a handsome, compact and affordable model in the shape of the Range Rover Evoque, which looks set to be a great success."

## Formula One king Vettel designs his own vehicle

THE perfect high-performance Infiniti Crossover – designed by, and built for, Formula One World Champion Sebastian Vettel – was making its debut in concept form at the 64th International Motor Show in Frankfurt.

The Red Bull Racing driver and Infiniti Global Brand Ambassador was unveiling "his" car at the show.

The first-ever Vettel-badged road car, the FX Sebastian Vettel version is the lightest, fastest and most aerodynamic FX yet.

It reflects the world champion's desire for a speedy 300km/h Crossover that he can drive on his home country's unrestricted Autobahn.

### Sporting

Based on the already fast and sporting V8-powered FX50S Premium, the FX Sebastian Vettel version features changes to engine, suspension and body.

There are also key aerodynamic enhancements implemented with input from Red Bull Racing.

The one-off model also gains an interior personalised to Vettel's taste, taking the brand hallmarks of exclusiveness and individuality to new levels.



The Infiniti Crossover was being unveiled in concept form at the International Motor Show in Frankfurt

## You want to buy a second-hand car.

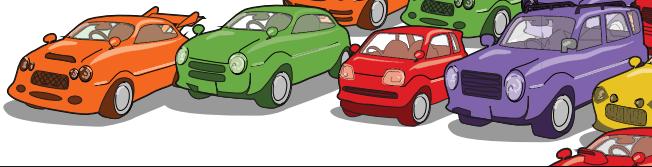
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LOST - Tiggs, tortoiseshell Persian house cat, 14 years old, from Castle Road, Tipton, Thursdays. Please call 07542 647283.



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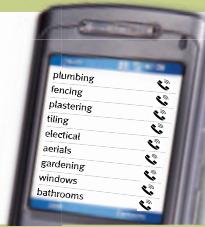
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# sport

## NESBITT BRACE SEALS YELTZ WIN

ABINGDON UNITED 1 HALESOWEN TOWN 3

TWO GOALS from Justin Nisbett helped move Halesowen up to sixth place as they found form in a 3-1 win at Abingdon, writes *David Johnson*.

The hosts started brightly and Curtis Angell's cross glanced the top of the Halesowen bar in the first minute, before Sam Collier struck past the post on the turn six minutes later.

With Abingdon enjoying a good spell midway through the first period, Yeltz goalkeeper Paul Evans turned away a bouncing effort from Tom Austin. Evans then did well from a corner to push Collier's header away, with the rebound effort striking the top of the bar.

After soaking up pressure the Yeltz took a 34th minute lead following a neat combination between the forwards – Lee Chilton played to Arshad who fed Nisbett and his shot was helped into the net through the hands of keeper James Foster.

Halesowen doubled their lead just two minutes later when McGrath set up Anthony Bruce to lift and stroke the ball home from the edge of the penalty area.

Abingdon gave themselves hope by pulling a goal back in the fifth minute of first half injury time when Collier glanced home a header from Austin's free-kick.

Halesowen continued to create chances in the second half and a superb ball out of defence from Mark Smith set Chilton free on the right to advance on goal and smack the post. Nisbett put the game beyond doubt with eight minutes to go when he cut inside from the left and cleverly deceived three defenders and goalkeeper Foster with a cheeky back-heel into the net.

There was still time for the visitors to close again when substitute Jean-Michel Gueyes delivered a fine cross but goalkeeper Foster produced a good save from Arshad's header.

### Tividale ease to FA Vase victory

TIVIDALE 3 NUNEATON GRIFF 0

Tividale eased into the next round of the FA Vase with a comfortable win in blustery conditions.

The home side made two changes which saw the re-introduction of Chris Russell and Leon Taylor.

The home side started brightly and soon put the visiting defence under pressure with some purposeful runs by Russell and excellent play involving Taylor.

The pressure told within eight minutes when Russell just beat the Nuneaton goalkeeper Sam Slater and central defender Ryan Millipher to a ball before slipping round them and tapping the ball into an empty net.

Tividale almost surrendered their lead on 41 minutes when Trevalen had to pull off an outstanding save from Robinson. Once again Tividale cleared their lines and went up the other end where the energetic Trumpeter swept the ball past Slater from close range.

The match was settled on 70 minutes when substitute Matt Jukes turned in a low cross following persistent play from Sargent and Trumpeter.

### Robins upset Causeway

DUDLEY TOWN 3 CAUSEWAY 2

Causeway United went out of the FA Vase with a disappointing display at a windy Dell Stadium.

Dudley took the lead on 23 minutes when Adam Cross produced a great finish with a half-volley from inside the box.

Ben Stretton, headed in a Barry Richards free-kick for Dudley on 64 minutes to give the Blues an uphill task. On 83 minutes Danny Priest reduced the deficit with a tap-in after ignoring the Dudley players' shouts for a foul on Whitley. And substitute Craig Greene made it 3-2 almost on time with a back-post header.

### New boy Reece-Cooke takes impressive double

WHITCHURCH 6  
OLD HALESIONIANS 15

Old Halesonians followed up last week's excellent 31-15 win away to Kenilworth with another good win, this time 15-6 away to Whitchurch.

This was always going to be a hard fought encounter with Old Hales not having won them in recent memory, if ever.

This was a competitive game played in excellent conditions with both teams making a shaky start, although with this being the home side's first competitive game Old Hales sought to assert dominance early on.

The visitors managed to do this after a hard-fought forward exchange preceding a rare foray to the backs, a second invite was not needed for new signing Christian Reece-Cooke who split the opposing defence with a fantastic line of running and scored the first try. The conversion was missed by Chris Hooper.

A second try came soon after for Reece-Cooke who this time used his blistering pace to simply outstrip the opposite wing and another covering defender touching down in the corner.

This left another awkward kick for Hooper who again missed leaving Old Hales 10-0 up within the first 20 minutes.

This seemed to galvanise the home side who began to fight back ferociously and at times were in the ascen-



Penalty conversions for Chris Hooper

### Hopes still high at Old Hill

ATTOCK (6 POINTS) 238 - 8 DREW WITH OLD HILL (14 POINTS) 210 - 4.

Following the early morning rain, the First XI game away at Attok got off to a prompt start and having won the toss, the home side elected to bat and had 52 runs on the board before the openers were parted.

Then as Old Hill's bowlers began to make an impact on the game with the introduction of Nigel Davy (3 - 57) and Ashraf Hussain (4 - 59), Attok were reduced to 151 - 7 wickets in the 42nd over with only Q Khan (47) showing any resistance.

However, a late flurry of runs by the hosts tail enders took their score up to 238 - 8 wickets from their 55 overs, thanks mainly to A Mahmood (69 not out) and R Zaman (30).

In reply, Old Hill lost opener Mike Hingey with the score on 4 before fellow opener Nathan Round produced yet another master class 89 not out as he led the visitors to the brink of victory which would have secured a

maximum 24 points but it was all to no avail as the rain arrived yet again causing the game to be abandoned.

The captain was ably assisted by Dan Cox (46), Nitesh Patel (37) and Dan Wood (31) in the quest to keep their promotion push alive, especially as news filtered through that rivals Brockhampton had lost their match but it was not to be.

With the visitors total on 210 - 4 wickets off just 45.1 overs, the rain intensified and they had to settle for a winning draw.

Old Hill now need to win their last home game against Kenilworth, take maximum points and hope for a few favours if they are to achieve their goal.

OLD HILL (9 POINTS) 19 - 1  
HARBORNE (8 POINTS) 212 - 9  
MATCH ABANDONED.

Having won the toss in their game at Haden Hill against Harborne, the

Second XI chose to field first. The home bowlers started well enough and the visitors were struggling at 65 - 3 wickets in the 19th over.

However, thanks to an excellent innings by M Fahim (79) and some resolute batting by the middle and lower order, Harborne reached 212 - 9 wickets off their 50 overs.

Best bowlers for Old Hill were Connor Smith (3 - 59) and Dan Such (2 - 36).

Then Old Hill openers Shezad Aslam and Joe Thorn began their reply under threatening skies and were parted when Aslam was out 1.b.w. in the third over before a series of heavy showers put an end to any prospects of further play and the match was abandoned as a draw.

Derek Griffiths

The match between Chaddesley Corbett and Old Hill scheduled for Sunday, September 11 was postponed.

### Tournament test for Old Hales first XI

OLD HALESIONIANS 3 BRIDGNORTH 2

Old Halesonians 1st XI faced a tough double header against Bridgnorth & Wolverhampton last Saturday.

The three-way tournament was to truly test Hales' pre-season fitness training, and push the players to their limit.

Hales first faced the hosts Bridgnorth, and got off to a slow start with some sloppy periods of play, leading to the home side taking the lead 1-0. Hales soon settled into the game, and drew square when captain Doug Houghton grabbed his first of the game from a penalty corner.

Hales continued to pressurise the Bridgnorth side, and Houghton scored another to give the visitors a 2-1 lead.

Returning Tom Bulteel increased Hales' lead to 3-1, when a windy run left him one-on-one with the keeper where last season's top scorer made no mistake and found the net.

A brief lack of concentration gave Bridgnorth a consolation goal when scored from the penalty flick spot, after the ball had hit Paul Wodall on the line. Hales will have mixed feelings over their 3-2 victory, in a game where they would have hoped to their 2-2 draw.

OLD HALESIONIANS 2 WOLVERHAMPTON 3

Old Halesonians 1st XI second game of the day saw them face Wolverhampton. Both teams started patiently, and it looked very much a stalemate, until Bulteel dribbled his way past the Wolves' defence and squared the ball to Graham Knight who finished from three yards.

Wolverhampton equalised almost immediately, and they soon found themselves in front after a string of penalty corners. Captain Doug Houghton put the game level at 2-2, when he continued his scoring streak. A resilient performance from Hales certainly tested Wolverhampton, but towards the end of the game their fitness levels dropped, to make it 3-2.

Old Halesonians 3rd XI were somewhat of a revolution in their 4-1 victory over Wolverhampton. Despite a strong start, Hales found themselves behind from a rare Wolves penalty corner which slipped past keeper Stuart Andrews.

Going behind just spurred Hales on, and after continued pressure on the Wolves' goal, Adam Hill scored the equaliser. Hill added to his tally, when he deflected in a cross from Matt Harrold.

Nathan Kelly made it 3-1 for Hales when he finished from close range, and Hill had the chance to score his third after the home side were awarded a penalty flick, but Hill put the ball wide. This was nothing but a small hurdle, as Hill scored late on to secure his hat-trick. Late on, Hales had the chance to further the punishment, but man of the match Harrold, saw his shot at goal disallowed.

Hales showed a great team performance, which shows promise for the season ahead.

The Mens 4th XI snatched a 4-3 victory versus Wolverhampton, but the Badgers were not as lucky as they fell to an 8-2 defeat at the hands of Wolves.

Old Halesonians Ladies lost 2-1 against Erdington in their Black Country League game, despite having the majority of chances and possession.

Hales powered the pressure on the Erdington goal, but they were unable to fight back from 2 goals down.

Annie Smith continued her scoring streak for the ladies as she picked up a consolation goal, in a team performance which was significantly greater than last weeks.

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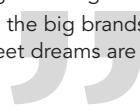
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